The genus Myrica belongs to the class *Diœcia* and order *Tetrandria*. It is also ranked among the *Amentaceæ* of Linnæus and Jussieu.

The generic character consists in an *imbricated ament; the scales without a corolla; the barren flowers containing four anthers, the fertile ones two styles. Fruit, one seeded.*—The specific character, as given by Michaux, is as follows. *Leaves wedge-lanceolate, with a few serratures at top; barren aments lax; fruit spherical, naked, distinct.*

The Wax myrtle is found bearing fruit at every size, from the height of one foot, to six or eight. In Louisiana, it is said to grow to twelve feet. The top is much branched, and covered with a grayish bark. The leaves are wedge-lanceolate, varying in width, sometimes entire, but more frequently toothed, particularly toward the end. They are somewhat pubescent, a little paler beneath, and generally twisted, or revolute in their mode of growth. They are inserted in a scattered manner by short petioles. The flowers appear in May before the leaves are fully expanded. The barren ones grow in catkins, which are sessile, erect, about half an inch or three quarters long; originating from the sides of the last year's twigs. Every flower is formed by a